



# Family Connection critical for those in Long Term Care (LTC)

The SK LTC Network, supported by work of STM researcher Dr. Paulette Hunter, remind of the need for family for those in LTC.

Dec 18, 2020

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The SK LTC Network is an independent collective of family members, researchers, clinicians, and trainees that formed in March 2020. They work together to provide evidence - and experience - informed strategies to long-term care stakeholders during the pandemic and beyond. Their work is founded on the belief that strong relationships between residents, families, health providers, and decision-makers is the key to a strong long-term care system.

During this most challenging year of pandemic and enforced isolation, the Network wants to remind all of the importance of connection and family for those in Long Term Care - perhaps even more accentuated over this Christmas season. They would like to increase focus on this issue in whatever ways we can in the time leading up to Christmas.

Attached is a link to a video developed by the SK LTC Network. Not Just a Visitor: The Essential Role of Family Members in Long-term Care

**<https://vimeo.com/476489830>** (**<https://vimeo.com/476489830>**).

In this video, SK LTC Network members explore reactions to complicated issues related to the pandemic in response to the following questions: What challenges are families encountering during the pandemic? Why is it important that long-term care become more relationship-centred? What is your vision for family presence in long-term care? What would it look like if families were integrated into care teams? What are some promising directions related to family presence in long-term care?

Please remember the importance of connection for our vulnerable family members in isolation - as we look for creative options to be present.

The SK LTC Network would like to make its partners aware of the following member work on the ongoing importance of family presence during the pandemic:

<https://cgjonline.ca/index.php/cgj/article/view/476> <https://cgjonline.ca/index.php/cgj/article/view/476>  
(<https://cgjonline.ca/index.php/cgj/article/view/476>) (Tupper, Ward, SK LTC Network)

<https://leaderpost.com/opinion/columnists/opinion-consider-essential-visitations-to-long-term-care-homes> (<https://leaderpost.com/opinion/columnists/opinion-consider-essential-visitations-to-long-term-care-homes>) (Compton, SK LTC Network)

<https://thestarphoenix.com/opinion/letters/opinion-long-term-care-residents-deserve-time-with-families> (<https://thestarphoenix.com/opinion/letters/opinion-long-term-care-residents-deserve-time-with-families>) (Hunter, SK LTC Network)

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